

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 9, and 12 are amended. Support for amendments can be found in the last paragraph on Page 15. No new matter is added.

Claims 33-35 are added. Support for new claims 33 and 35 can be found in the second paragraph on Page 16 and Figure 8. Support for new claims 34 can be found throughout the Specification and the original claim 9. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-8, 23-27, and 30-31 are cancelled.

Claims 15-17, 19-22, 28-29, and 32 remain withdrawn.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 9-14, 18, and 33-35 are now pending for examination.

Claim Rejections 35 U. S. C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nguyen (US 6,565,661, hereinafter Nguyen '661). Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '661. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '661, in view of Park (US 2002/0000196, hereinafter '196).

Independent claims 9 and 12 are amended to recite that “the plurality of ejection holes increases in diameter as going outward of the shower plate”.

Nguyen “661 discloses a shower plate having a plurality of ejection holes. However, in contrast to claims 9 and 12, Nguyen “661 fails to teach that “the plurality of ejection holes increases in diameter as going outward of the shower plate”.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that an unexpected advantage of the above recited feature is that a highly uniform arriving gas distribution can be obtained, for example,

as described in a non-limiting example, an arriving gas distribution of 0.9% can be obtained. Support for this statement can be found in the third paragraph on Page 16 of the Specification.

Park '196 is cited for disclosing other features of claim 18, but fails to cure the deficiencies of Nguyen '661 explained above.

Claims 10-11 depend from claim 9, and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 13-14, and 18 depend from claim 12, and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons.

New claims

Newly added claims 33 and 34 depend from claim 9, and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Newly added claim 35 depend from claim 12, and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

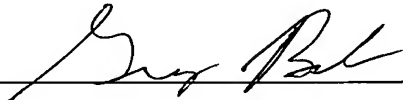
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith,

Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 11/19/2008

By 

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